



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE

Andrew Johnson Tower Ninth Floor Conference Room
Thursday, February, 23 2006
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jim Ford, Chair
Dennis Clark
Drew Johnson
Dwight Stokes
Marti Herndon
Susan Lawless-Glassman

Committee Members Absent

Tim Goldsmith
Trudy Hughes
Charles Hutchins
Carlton Lewis
Natasha Blackshear
Nancy Williams
Jo Ann Yates

Commission Members Present

Cindy Durham, Commission Chair

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal
Pam Brown
Fay Delk
Rodger Jowers
Bill Latimer
Ashok Midha
Vickie Morgan
John Nixon
Steve Petty
Zanira Whitfield

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

I. Approval of October Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (GLASSMAN) AND SECONDED (HERNDON) TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTION OF ADDING HERNDON TO THE ATTENDEE LIST. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. TCCY Media Coverage Update

Brown presented the media report covering July 1, 2005, through January 31, 2006, that covered a total of 128 articles. Brown and Herndon discussed the problem of less coverage in West Tennessee. The report included a comparison with earlier years. The

report also listed media contacts. Brown reported that the increased number of contacts indicated how the media are contacting TCCY for expert input on all issues related to children

III. Making KIDS COUNT Media Award

Brown reported that there were five media award nominations. The only large print media nomination was for Judith Tackett, who was considered for the award in 2005. Tackett has covered numerous children's issues and TCCY events.

IT WAS MOVED (GLASSMAN) AND SECONDED (HERNDON) TO AWARD THE LARGE MARKET PRINT MEDIA AWARD TO JUDITH TACKETT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Brown stated that there were two large market broadcast media nominations and two small: Sue Laskey of WLJT television and radio for small market, Dorida Carter of Channel 2 Nashville, and Laura Faber of Channel 17 Nashville nominated for the large market broadcast media. Brown discussed the Carter nomination and her station's coverage of KIDS COUNT. Delk reported on the Faber nomination.

IT WAS MOVED (GLASSMAN) AND SECONDED (HERNDON) TO AWARD THE LARGE MARKET BROADCAST MEDIA AWARD TO DORINDA CARTER. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Jowers recommended that the Commission consider a special merit award for David Sutherland for his PBS special documentary Country Boys. He nominated Sutherland because the documentary addressed issues of special concern and interest regarding problems youth face in Tennessee. The committee discussed the appropriateness of the award.

IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (CLARK) TO GIVE A SPECIAL AWARD OF MERIT TO DAVID SUTHERLAND. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Jowers also nominated Sue Lasky of PBS station WLJT for the Small Market award. The station received the award three years ago. After the station received the award PBS withdrew support for early childhood programming, and Lasky has been instrumental in investing station resources to increase community awareness of children's needs.

IT WAS MOVED (HERNDON) AND SECONDED (STOKES) TO AWARD THE SMALL MARKET BROADCAST AWARD TO SUE LASKY. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

IV. The Advocate Update

Delk reported that the last edition of *The Advocate* about the history of TCCY was 16 pages long and included information only available at the State Library and Archives. The next issue will be on after school programs. Field student Amber Dixon is working on an article for the next newsletter. Because of our application to the Mott Foundation, after school programs are more a focus for the Commission.

V. Web Stats

Brown referred to the graphics that were sent out comparing 2004 and 2005 web hits, and a month-by-month report for the entire year. She noted a significant drop in hits in 2005 compared to 2004.

VI. Budget Closing 2004-2005 Update

O'Neal reported that the budget year closing addressed the over-expenditure problem. At the time of closing the agency was just under \$42,000 short in state dollars. We are working diligently this year to make sure that we have staff allocated to the proper grant program. Too much money was charged to the Federal Formula grants. If we had had more time we could have allocated staff to the JABG grant. One staff position was charged to state dollars that should have been charged elsewhere. If we had charged more to the JABG and Interdepartmental, the overexpenditure would not have happened. There was no loss of credibility because it had never happened before. F&A did not consider it worth its time to hold year end closing to let TCCY resolve this more fully.

VII. Senate Budget Hearing

O'Neal reported that before the Senate Budget Hearing was held a 39-page response to 26 budget questions from the committee was completed. The budget includes one improvement item of \$135,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocate programs. We asked for \$270,000, which would have funded 13 currently operational and some additional ones. We asked for approval of the budget submitted by the Governor with an additional \$60,000 so that we could provide funding for all 13 counties not currently funded. There was a motion to fund our budget with the additional \$60,000. It was seconded, but time ran out, and the chair had questions about CASA programs, so they didn't act on our budget. We will go back for another budget hearing. The Tennessee CASA association should have a primary role in recommending how funds get allocated and in assuring that programs serving multiple counties have members of their boards from the counties they serve. O'Neal stated that she did a survey of the CASA programs about numbers of volunteers and accountability. There are only two CASA programs in West Tennessee. We expect to get the \$60,000. Durham reported that CASA state funding has not been increased since 1996 and did not include any programs that started since 1993.

VIII. Budget Report

O'Neal and Nixon presented information on expenditures for FY 05-06. O'Neal gave information about two items that appeared out of line. Printing, duplicating and binding included payment for the Compilation of Laws on Children Youth and Families, which is the most expensive thing we print. Supplies showed 77 percent expended because computers are classified as supplies, and the line item shows the computers purchased for the year. O'Neal said Accounting would reconsider the types of reports and posting we have done.

IV. Accounting Shared Services

Chuck Holland of the Department of Finance and Administration presented the department plan to work with TCCY's budget through its Shared Services, which currently provides services for smaller organizations using the centralized accounting system. Expenditures will be assigned according to Cost Center numbers as transactions are recorded. This will allow expenditures to be classified, recorded and reported all at the same time. Expenditures will automatically be allocated to allow better tracking of expenditures. An employee's salary can be automatically assigned to several funding sources. He said that in the past the Commission was classifying expenses after they were recorded so TCCY is moving from a retroactive system to a proactive system. Expenditures like mail can be pooled and allocated. TCCY could also go to a payment card system and start making purchases with a Visa rather than using a warrant system. At this time the relationship with F&A is a temporary arrangement but should we continue they would charge us the way they do the Human Rights Commission based on a head count and assuming equal services. In response to a question from Ford, Holland stated that Commission staff would be responsible for the integrity of the data – appropriateness of purchases – but once it was in the system, F&A would be responsible.

V. Other business.

Ford returned to the problem with the last year's budget, which could have been resolved further if we had had time. He opened the floor to any questions Commission members had about the problem. No further questions or concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Pam Brown, Director KIDS COUNT

Jim Ford, Chair

H DRIVE/SHARED FILES/COMMISSION/MINUTES FOLDER